(a) whether his Ministry is aware that due to Polavaram Project's proposed design, 300 villages in 9 mandals in these districts in Andhra Pradesh would be submerged displacing more than two lakh tribal people and their livelihood; and

(b) if so, how the Central Government accorded environmental clearance (EIA) to the project and allowed the Andhra Pradesh State Government to go ahead with the project work without other clearances?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government is aware that a total of 276 villages (including hamlets) in 9 mandals in three districts of Andhra Pradesh would be submerged displacing 1,75,275 people out of which 60,770 people are Schedule Tribes.

(b) The project has been accorded environmental clearance as per the procedure prescribed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 1994, and its subsequent amendments notified under the Environment (Piotsction)Act, 1986.

Social Forestry Programme

2642. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of Social Forestry Programme in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one and half year, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the above programme has failed to yield any results in last one year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to identify the bottlenecks and to plug the loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests has not carried out any review of the social forestry schemes in the country in the recent past. On its part, the Ministry is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme in all States of the country. The Scheme is being implementing

through a 2-tier decentralized set up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level. The implementation of the scheme is monitored at the national level by a National level Steering Committee and at the State level by State leval coordination Committee. In addition, independent evaluations of the FDA projects are commissioned both at the FDA level and the Government of India level.

(b) to (d) The National Level Steering Committee met on 15.9.2004 and 14.11.2005 to monitor the progress of NAP in all States including Andhra Pradesh. In addition, 58 First Concurrent Evalution studies have been commissioned for FDA projects in the country, including 3 FDA projects in Andhra Pradesh during 2004-05. So far Evaluation reports in respect of 44 projects, including 2 for Andhra Pradesh have been received. The Evaluation reports of FDA projects of Andhra Pradesh indicate that the implementation of NAP is satisfactory in that State.

(e) Report of the Evaluation.studies are sent to the State Forest Department for follow-up action for improving implementation of FDA projects. Interactive meetings of the evaluators and FDA personnel of the State Forest Departments have been organized during 2004 and 2005 wherein the FDA projects of Andhra Pradesh were also discussed.

National Environment Policy

2643. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG:
SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Environment Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps Government propose to take for implementation of the said scheme in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has prepared a draft Mational Environment Policy (NEP).